

The North Carolina Standard.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY
WILLIAM W. HOLDEN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE UNION OF THE STATES—THEY MUST BE PRESERVED.
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TERMS.

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MILITARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

Letter of the President—Report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

We are glad to see the system of military contributions proposed to be levied by the President in Mexico, approved in advance by the National Intelligencer of this morning. It always gives us pleasure when the able editors of that paper array themselves on the American side of any question, and we would rejoice still more, if we should never again have occasion to dissent from their views, as regards the existing war with Mexico. They are mistaken, however, in supposing that the system of collecting duties in the ports of Mexico, as a military contribution originated with their distinguished whig correspondent, Gen. Waddy Thompson, late minister to Mexico. Long prior to that publication, on reference to the files of the Union of the 22d of December last, and among the papers laid before Congress by the President, at the very commencement of the last session, will be found an able despatch of Judge Mason, Secretary of the Navy, directing the collection of duties on imports at a rate not exceeding our present tariff, in such of the ports of California, as might be in our possession by conquest. Indeed, immediately after the commencement of the war, the imposition of duties in the ports of Mexico, was well considered by the President and his cabinet, and approved, if Mexico should determine to protract the contest. Orders to collect these duties in California, were actually transmitted as we have shown as early as the 5th of November last, which orders have probably reached their destination before this date. In Tampico and Matamoros, however, so much nearer to the capital of Mexico, and where the measure would be calculated to produce deep feeling, it was delayed in hope that the contest might be terminated by peaceful negotiation. This, however, has been again and again tried by the President, but without success, and even since the adjournment of Congress, we have received, what must be regarded, at least for the present, the obstinate refusal of Mexico to negotiate for peace. Upon the receipt of this intelligence, the President, with the unanimous sanction of his cabinet, resolved to put into immediate operation the system of duties now proposed, as the best means of levying military contributions in Mexico. The right thus partially exercised in California, having been laid before Congress at the commencement of the last session, and having encountered no opposition there, or throughout the country, may well be regarded as unanimously approved.

Peace has its laws, as well as war; but the stern and iron rules of the latter are ordained, not by ordinary legislative enactments, but are to be found in the unwritten code of the law of nations. It is this law applying to our army and navy, which regulates our military rights as well as those of all other belligerents, and among these is the unquestioned and unquestionable right of levying military contributions upon the enemy. This right is now exercised by Mexico against us, both as to public and even private property, and we must possess this right in a conflict even with the weakest enemy, or it does not belong to us, if summoned to battle against the greatest allied powers of the world. To surrender this right, would strip us of one of the vital attributes of sovereign power, would place us upon an unequal footing with every belligerent, would impair the welfare and interest of the country, might sacrifice the lives of our heroic defenders, might turn our victories into defeats, and even endanger the safety of the republic. Without this right, also, we might never be able to conquer a peace, and the exercise is most appropriate at this time, when Mexico, unable to meet our gallant forces in the field, now mainly relies on a war upon our treasury and finances, through a lingering and expensive contest. It is the Department of the Treasury which Mexico expects to break down, and we shall see whether our finances are not as impregnable as our armies.

It is recognized by the law of nations, admitted by the distinguished commentators on that law, and affirmed by the highest judicial authorities of this country, and of the world; that, during a war, one belligerent, in possession by conquest of any of the ports or territory of another, has a right to establish a temporary military government there, through the order of its executive, as the commander-in-chief of the army and navy, and has also the right, through the same authority, to levy in such ports or places, military contributions upon the enemy. This right is exercised to aid in defraying the expenses of the war, to augment our own resources during the contest, as also to diminish and exhaust those of the enemy, so as to compel him to agree more speedily to an honorable peace. This right presupposes that the nation making the conquest and levying the contributions, relies upon the justice of her cause, responsible for her acts to the God of battles, and to the enlightened judgment of the civilized nations of the world. For nearly the fourth of a century Mexico has inflicted upon our country a series of wrongs, outrages, and insults unparalleled in history. She has, during a period of profound peace, repeatedly insulted our flag, seized and confiscated the property of our unoffending citizens, arrested and maintained some of them, and deprived others of life and liberty. When she had at last acknowledged some of these injuries, and promised by solemn treaty stipulations to make amends for them, not as a debt, but as a satisfaction for atrocious wrongs and insults, justifying of themselves an appeal to the last resort of nations, she has violated these sacred compacts, and thereby reduced many American citizens and their families to serious embarrass-

ments, and in some cases to want and ruin. The name of an American, instead of affording, as it should have done, the most ample protection to all our citizens in Mexico, was but an invitation to outrages and insults the most aggravated and intolerable. Before the annexation of Texas, she had, as the tables of our imports and exports show, substantially driven our merchants and commerce from the ports and cities of Mexico. From the frequent outrages upon the persons and property of our citizens trading with Mexico, rendering our whole commerce there insecure, our exports to Mexico fell off from more than six millions of dollars, in 1835, to \$368,000, in 1845, and our imports from Mexico (almost exclusively specie) fell from \$9,490,000, in 1835, to \$1,702,000, in 1845; and when Texas—a nation as sovereign as Mexico, recognised as an independent government by the great powers of the earth, and with as clear a right to decide her own destiny for herself—resolved, with our assent, to become a State of this Union, Mexico, in defiance of every rule of right, and of every principle of justice, soon thereafter, announced war as existing with this country, and proceeded in a short time, as well by atrocious massacres, as by public military movements, to shed the precious blood of American citizens upon the sacred soil of one of the States of the American Union. Again and again, in a spirit of generous and magnanimous forbearance, which Mexico seems wholly unable or unwilling to appreciate, we offered to negotiate for peace, appealing to her to agree to terminate this contest; but all our friendly offers and appeals are met by insulting refusals, and she seems resolved to continue this contest at all hazards. This is deeply regretted by the administration. One of the great trusts confided to it by the American people, was to unfetter our commerce as the best means of maintaining peace, and advancing our own best interests in common with those of all the nations of the world. Peace was the policy and ardent desire of the administration; but it has been frustrated by the perverse obstinacy of Mexico, in the war which she has so unjustly commenced, and still more unjustly insists upon prosecuting against our country. This war occurred at the very period when the administration was engaged in endeavoring to fulfil one of its sacred trusts, by reducing the duties, and unfettering the commerce of the American people. The war greatly embarrassed and endangered the success of this benign policy, although it did not effect its overthrow. The question now is, must the American people submit to new and heavy loans and grievous taxation, or shall we subject the enemy by every lawful contribution during the war to those burdens which Mexico insists upon imposing on us by refusing to terminate the contest? We have endeavored by every effort of peaceful negotiation to prevent the occurrence of war; the war itself has been prosecuted on our part in a spirit of lenity and forbearance almost unexampled; new offers of peace have been again made by us to Mexico, and again, since the rising of Congress, contumaciously refused. Our forbearance and lenity have not been appreciated by Mexico; they have been mistaken by her for weakness and timidity on our part, and it would seem now that nothing short of the most rigorous war, and the largest practicable contributions, will compel her to restore our peaceful relations.

Money being the sinews of war, the revenues of the belligerent are as necessary to their success as armies or navies; and these revenues, being public property, may be seized and confiscated, and diverted to our own use during the contest. Mexico herself now seizes our public property and revenues, wherever she can find them. She is endeavoring also to enlist the whole world in a general spoliation of our commerce and revenue, by the seizure of American merchant vessels and cargo on every sea, so as to weaken our resources and augment her own. Under these circumstances, she can have no just cause of complaint, if we divert her revenues derived from duties from her treasury, where they are used against us, and collect those revenues ourselves, as the best means of bringing the contest to a speedy and honorable conclusion. It will be seen that the Secretary of the Treasury, whose estimates as to revenue heretofore have never exceeded the results, calculates on a large addition to our resources from these duties. He estimates also that this revenue will be largely augmented by the occupation of the ports on each side of the Mexican isthmus, (which is about one hundred and thirty miles from property) and securing the free transit across that isthmus for our commerce, and that of all the world. At this isthmus the navigable waters of the two oceans approach within about sixty miles, the intermediate distance being practicable, for a canal or a railroad. Whenever such a work, at some period, may be completed, it would bring New Orleans within four days of the Pacific, and within two weeks of California and Oregon; the distance from New York would only be about one week greater, and our whole commerce would be brought within nearly thirty days of Asia. This important subject is thus alluded to in the extract which we quote from Mr. Walker's last treasury report of the 10th December last, in which, speaking of the warehouse bill, he says: "Our chief commercial cities are already nearer than those of Europe, to the center of the world, and are destined, as the population of the world, and are destined, at no distant day, to be brought still nearer, when the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific shall be united at the Mexican isthmus, which, combined with our possessions on the Pacific, would revolutionize in our favor the commerce of the world, and more rapidly advance our greatness, wealth and power, than any event that has occurred since the adoption of the constitution." When Mr. Walker wrote this sentence, he could scarcely have supposed that the great measure should be so near its accomplishment, as to be ranked among the great achievements to be accomplished by the administration of President Polk.

Important Documents.

To the Secretary of the Treasury:

Sir: The government of Mexico having repeatedly rejected the friendly overtures of the United States to open negotiations with a view to the restoration of peace, sound policy, and a just regard to the interests of our own country, require that the enemy should be made, as far as practicable, to bear the expenses of a war, of which they are the authors, and which they obstinately persist in protracting. It is the right of the conqueror to levy contributions upon the enemy, in their respective towns, or provinces, which may be in his military possession by conquest, and to apply the same to defray the expenses of the war. The conqueror possesses the

right also to establish a temporary military government over such seaports, towns or provinces, and to prescribe the conditions and restrictions upon which commerce with such places may be permitted. He may, in his discretion, exclude all trade; or admit it, without limitation or restriction; or impose terms, the observance of which will be the condition of carrying it on. One of these conditions may be the payment of a prescribed rate of duties on tonnage and imports.

In the exercise of these unquestioned rights of war, I have, on full consideration, determined to order that all the ports or places in Mexico which now are, or hereafter may be, in the actual possession of our land and naval forces by conquest, shall be opened, while our military occupation may continue, to the commerce of all neutral nations, as well as to our own, in articles not contraband of war, upon the payment of prescribed rates of duties, which will be made known and enforced by our military and naval commanders.

While the adoption of this policy will be to impose a burden on the enemy, and at the same time to deprive them of the revenue to be derived from trade, at such ports or places, as well as to secure it to ourselves, whereby the expenses of the war may be diminished—a just regard to the general interests of commerce, and the obvious advantages of uniformity in the exercise of these belligerent rights, require that well-considered regulations and restrictions shall be prepared for the guidance of those who may be charged with carrying it into effect.

You are therefore instructed to examine the existing Mexican tariff of duties, and report to me a schedule of articles of trade, to be admitted at such ports or places as may at any time be in our military possession, with such rates of duties on them, and also on tonnage, as will be likely to produce the greatest amount of revenue. You will also communicate the considerations which may recommend the scale of duties which you may prepare, and will submit such regulations as you may deem advisable, in order to enforce their collection.

As the levy of the contribution proposed is a military right, derived from the laws of nations, the collection and disbursement of the duties will be made under the orders of the Secretary of War and the Secretary of Navy, by the military and naval commanders at the ports or places in Mexico which may be in possession of our arms. The report required is therefore necessary in order to enable me to give proper directions to the War and Navy Departments.

JAMES K. POLK.
WASHINGTON, March 23, 1847.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, March 30, 1847.

Sir: Your instructions of the 23d instant have been received by this department, and in conformity thereto, I present you herewith, for your consideration, a scale of duties proposed to be collected as a military contribution during the war, in the ports of Mexico, in possession of our army or navy by conquest, with regulations for the ascertainment and collection of such duties, together with the reasons which appear to me to recommend their adoption.

It is clear that we must either adopt our own tariff, or that of Mexico, or establish a new system of duties. Our own tariff could not be adopted, because the Mexican exports and imports are so different from our own, that different rates of duties are indispensable in order to collect the largest revenue. Thus, upon many articles produced in abundance here, duties must be imposed at the lowest rate in order to collect any revenue; whereas, many of the same articles are not produced in Mexico, or to a very inconsiderable extent, and would therefore bear there a much higher duty for revenue. A great change is also rendered necessary by the proposed exaction of duties on all imports to any Mexican port in our possession, from any other Mexican port occupied by us in the same manner. This measure would largely increase the revenue which we might collect. It is recommended, however, for reasons of obvious safety, that this Mexican coastwise trade should be confined to our own vessels, as well as the interior trade, above any port of entry in our possession, but that in all other respects, the ports of Mexico held by us should be freely opened at the rate of duties herein recommended to the vessels and commerce of all the world. The ad valorem system of duties adopted by us, although by far the most just and equitable, yet is not adapted to ascertain the actual value of every article. This demands great mercantile skill, knowledge, and experience, and therefore, for the want of skillful appraisers—a class of officers wholly unknown in Mexico—could not at once be put into successful operation there. If, also, as proposed, these duties are to be ascertained and collected as a military contribution through the officers of our army and navy, those brave men could more easily perform almost any other duty than that of estimating the value of every description of goods, wares, and merchandise.

The system of specific duties already prevails in Mexico, and may be put by us into immediate operation; and if, as conceded, specific duties should be more burdensome upon the people of Mexico, the more onerous the operation of these duties upon them, the sooner it is likely that they will force their military rulers to agree to a peace. It is certain that a mild and forbearing system of warfare, collecting no duties in their ports in our possession on the Gulf, and levying no contributions, whilst our armies purchase supplies from them at high prices, by rendering the war a benefit to the people of Mexico rather than an injury, has not hastened the conclusion of a peace. It may be, however, that specific duties, onerous as they are, and heavy contributions, accompanied by a vigorous prosecution of the war, may more speedily insure that peace which we have failed to obtain from magnanimous forbearance, from brilliant victories, or from proffered negotiation. The duties, however, whilst they may be specific, and therefore more onerous than ad valorem duties, should not be so high as to defeat revenue.

It is impossible to adopt as a basis the tariff of Mexico, because the duties are extravagantly high, defraying importation, commerce, and revenue, and producing innumerable frauds and smuggling. There are also sixty articles, the importation of which into Mexico is strictly prohibited by their tariff, embracing most of the necessities of life, and far the greater portion of our products and fabrics.

Among the sixty prohibited articles are sugar, rice, cotton, boots, and half boots, coffee, nails of all kinds, leather of most kinds, flour, cotton yarn and thread, soap of all kinds, common earthenware, lard, molasses, timber of all kinds, saddles of all kinds, coarse woollen cloth, cloth for cloaks, ready-made clothing of all kinds, salt, tobacco of

all kinds, cotton goods or textures, chiefly such as made by ourselves, pork, fresh or salted, smoked or corned, woollen or cotton blankets or counterpanes, shoes and slippers, wheat, and grain of all kinds. Such is a list of but a part of the articles whose importation is prohibited by the Mexican tariff. These prohibitions should not be permitted to continue, because they exclude most of our products and fabrics, and prevent the collection of revenue.

We turn from the prohibitions to the actual duties imposed by Mexico. The duties are specific throughout, and almost universally by weight, irrespective of value, are generally protective or exorbitant, and without a discrimination for revenue. The duties proposed to be substituted are moderate when compared with those imposed by Mexico, being generally reduced to a standard more than one-half below the Mexican duties. The duties are also based upon a discrimination throughout, for revenue, and keeping in view the custom and habits of the people of Mexico, so different from our own, are fixed in each case at that rate, which, it is believed, will produce in Mexican ports the largest amount of revenue.

In order to realize from this system the largest amount of revenue, it would be necessary that our army and navy should seize every important port and place upon the Gulf of Mexico, or California, or the Pacific, and open the way through the interior for the free transit of imports and exports, and especially that the interior passage through the Mexican isthmus should be secured from ocean to ocean for the benefit of our commerce, and that of all the world. This measure, whilst it would greatly increase our revenue from these duties, and facilitate communication between our forces upon the eastern and western coast of Mexico, would probably lead, at the conclusion of a peace, to results of incalculable importance to our own commerce and to that of all the world.

In the meantime the Mexican government monopoly in tobacco, from which a considerable revenue is realized by Mexico, together with the culture there which yields that revenue, should be abolished, so as to diminish the resources of that government, and augment our own, by collecting the duty upon all the imported tobacco. The Mexican interior transit duties should also be abolished, and their internal government duty on coin and bullion. The prohibition of exports and duties upon exports should be annulled, and especially the heavy export duty on coin and bullion, so as to cheapen and facilitate the purchase of imports, and permit the precious metals untaxed to flow out freely from Mexico into general circulation. The duties on machinery for working the mines of precious metals in Mexico, for the same reasons, should also be admitted duty-free; which, with the measures above indicated, would largely increase the production and circulation of the precious metals, improve our own commerce and industry, and that of all neutral powers.

In thus opening the ports of Mexico to the commerce of the world, you would present to all nations with whom we are at peace the best evidence of your desire to maintain with them our friendly relations, to render the war to them productive of as little injury as possible, and even to advance their interests so far as it safely can be done, by affording to them in common with ourselves, the advantages of a liberal commerce with Mexico. To extend this commerce, you will have unsealed the ports of Mexico, repealed their interior transit duties, which obstruct the passage of merchandise to and from the coast, you will have annulled the government duty on coin and bullion, and abolished the heavy export duties on the precious metals, so as to permit them to flow out freely for the benefit of mankind; you will have expunged the long list of their prohibited articles, and reduced more than one-half their duties on imports, whilst the freest coast would be left for the mining of the precious metals. These are great advantages which would be secured to friendly nations, especially when compared with the exclusion of their commerce by rigorous blockades. It is true, the duties collected from these imports would be for the benefit of our own government; but it is equally true, that the expenses of the war which Mexico insists upon prosecuting, are borne exclusively by ourselves and not by foreign nations. It cannot be doubted that all neutral nations will see in the adoption of such a course by you, a manifestation of your good will towards them, and a strong desire to advance their just and humane principles, which make it the duty of belligerents, as we have always contended, to render the war in which they are engaged, as little injurious as practicable to neutral powers.

These duties would not be imposed upon any imports into our own country, but only upon imports into Mexico, and the tax would fall upon the people of Mexico in the enhancement to them of the prices of these imports. Nearly all our own products are excluded by the Mexican tariff, even in time of peace; they are excluded also during the war, so far as we continue the system of blockading any of the ports of Mexico; and they are also excluded even from the ports not blockaded in possession of Mexico, whereas the new system of duties would open to the commerce all the ports of Mexico, as they shall fall into our military possession. Neither our own nor foreign merchants are required to send any goods to Mexico, and, if they do so voluntarily, it will be because they can make a profit upon the importation there, and therefore they will have no right to complain of the duties levied in the ports of Mexico, upon the consumers of those goods, the people of Mexico. The whole money collected would inure to the benefit of our own government and people, to sustain the war, and to prevent, to that extent, new loans and increased taxation. Indeed, in view of the fact that the government is thrown upon the ordinary revenues for peace, with no other additional resources but loans to carry on the war, the income to be derived from the new system, which, it is believed, will be large, if these suggestions are adopted, would be highly important to sustain the credit of the government, to prevent the embarrassment of the treasury, and to save the country from such ruinous sacrifices as occurred during the last year, including the inevitable legacy to posterity of a large debt and onerous taxation. The new system would not only arrest the expensive transfer and ruinous drain of specie to Mexico, but would cause it in duties, and in return for our exports, to re-flow into our country to an amount, perhaps, soon exceeding the nine millions of dollars which it had reached in 1835, even under the restrictive laws of Mexico, thus relieving our own people from a grievous tax, and imposing it where it should fall, upon our enemies, the people of Mexico, as a contribution levied upon them to conquer a peace, as well as to defray the expenses of the war; whereas, by admitting our exports freely

without duty into the Mexican ports, which we may occupy from time to time, and affording those goods, including the necessities of life, at less than one-half the prices which they had heretofore paid for them, the war might in time become a benefit, instead of a burden to the people of Mexico, and they would, therefore, be unwilling to terminate the contest. It is hoped, also, that Mexico, after a peace, will never renew her present prohibitory and protective system, so nearly resembling that of ancient China or Japan, but that liberalized, enlightened, and regenerated by the contact and intercourse with our people, and those of other civilized nations, she will continue the far more moderate system of duties resembling that prescribed by these regulations.

In the meantime, it is not just that Mexico, by her obstinate persistence in this contest, should compel us to overthrow our own financial policy, and arrest this great nation in her high and prosperous career. To reimpose high duties, would be alike injurious to ourselves and all neutral powers, and, unless demanded by a stern necessity, ungenerous to those enlightened nations which have adopted, contemporaneously with us, a more liberal commercial policy. The system you now propose, of imposing the burden as far as practicable upon our enemies, the people of Mexico, and not upon ourselves or upon friendly nations, appears to be most just in itself, and is further recommended as the only policy which is likely to hasten the conclusion of a just and honorable peace.

A tonnage duty on all vessels, whether our own, or of neutral powers, of one dollar per ton, which is greatly less than that imposed by Mexico, is recommended in lieu of all port duties and charges. Appended to these regulations are tables of the rates at which foreign money is fixed by law, as also a separate table of currencies by usage, in which a certificate of value is required to be attached to the invoice. There is also annexed a table of foreign weights and measures, reduced to the standard of the United States, together with blank forms, to facilitate the transaction of business.

It is recommended that the duties herein suggested shall be collected exclusively in gold and silver coin. These duties can only be collected as a military contribution, through the agency of our brave officers of the army and navy, who will, no doubt, cheerfully and faithfully collect and keep these moneys, and account for them, not to the treasury, but to the Secretaries of War or of the Navy respectively. It is recommended that these duties be performed by the commandant of the post, whether naval or military, aided by the paymaster or purser, or other officer, the accounts of each being countersigned by the other as a check upon mistakes or error, in the same manner as is now the case with the collector or naval officer of our several principal ports, which has introduced so much order and accuracy into our system. It is suggested that, as in some cases the attention of the commandant of the post might be necessary for the performance of other duties, he be permitted to substitute some other officer, making known the fact to the Secretaries of War or of the Navy, and subject to their direction.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant.
R. J. WALKER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TO THE PRESIDENT.

The Kentucky Regiment.

AN INCIDENT AT THE BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA.

At a very critical point of the battle on the 23d, when it became necessary to sustain one of our columns, which was staggering under a charge made by the Mexicans in an overwhelming number, Gen. Taylor despatched Mr. Crittenden to order Col. McKee, of the 2d Kentucky Regiment, to bring his men into immediate action. Mr. Crittenden found the regiment, men and officers, eager for the fray, delivered the order, and rode back to the General, by whose side it was his duty to keep. The Kentuckians moved forward in gallant style, led by McKee and Clay, both of whom, alas! fell in a subsequent part of the day. It so happened, that before reaching a position from which they could deliver an effective fire, the regiment had to cross a valley, which was broken up by ravines and masses of stone. Whilst crossing this valley, the heads only of the men could be seen from the point which General Taylor and Mr. Crittenden occupied—and these were bobbing up and down and crossing in such confusion as to impress both with the idea that the regiment had fallen into disorder. The Mexicans were aboying them at the same moment by a fire, which helped to confirm the opinion of the General that the Kentuckians were thrown into dismay.

It was one of those decisive crises which occur in every contested field, where the issue of the day depended, for the time being, upon the gallantry of a particular corps. Gen. Taylor, who, as before said, could only see the heads of the troops, and misled by their motions in getting across gullies and going around rocks and other obstructions into the belief that they were about to falter, turned to Mr. Crittenden, who is a Kentuckian, and with a countenance indicating deep mortification, for the General is a Kentuckian, too, and an eye for an eye, with emotion, exclaimed: By God—Mr. Crittenden, this will not do—this is not the way for Kentuckians to behave themselves when called upon to make good a battle—it will not answer, sir;—and with this he clinched his fist and knit his brow and set his teeth hard together. Mr. Crittenden, who was mistaken by the same indications that deceived the General, could scarcely make a reply from very chagrin and shame. In a few moments, however, the Kentuckians had crossed the uneven places, and were seen ascending the slope of the valley, shoulder to shoulder, and with the firm and regular step of veterans of a hundred fights. On they moved until they reached the crest of the hill, where they met the enemy before the flush of a temporary advantage had subsided. Here they delivered their fire by companies with such regularity and deadly aim that the decimated phalanx of Mexico gave way and retreated precipitously. As the Kentuckians emerged from the valley the countenance of the old general, who was regarding them with the intensest interest, gradually relaxed the bitterness of his expression. A glow of pride supplanted the deep mortification which fixed its muscles, and enthusiasm qualified the fierce glances of his eye. Forward they moved under his riveted gaze, whose feelings became more and more wrought up as they approached the scene of carnage. When they opened their fire the old general could no longer restrain his admiration, but broke forth with a loud huzza. "Hurrah for old Kentucky," he exclaimed, talking as it were to himself, and raising in his saddle. That's the way to do it, give them h—ll, d—n them," and the tears of exultation rolled down his cheeks. Pic.

From the Washington Union, April 1.

Very interesting from both Armies.

Despatches from Gen. Taylor—The great loss of the Mexican army—Loss of the Aztecans—List of our killed and wounded—Agua Nueva again occupied by our troops—Retreat, starvation, desertion, and disorganization of Santa Anna's army.

Successful landing of Gen. Scott at Vera Cruz—

Investment of the town and castle—The surrender of both expected in a few days.

We have never published a number of the Union, that was fraught with more interesting papers than the present. Independently of the important letter of the President, and the admirable report of the Secretary of the Treasury, in reply upon the duties to be levied on imports into the ports of Mexico, we lay before our readers the very interesting despatches from Gen. Taylor, and a letter from Commodore Conner, concerning the landing of our troops at Vera Cruz. The two sets of despatches were brought by the southern steamer this evening. The despatches from General Taylor were brought to the Secretary of War by Mr. Crittenden, a volunteer aid of Gen. Taylor. The commodore's letter came to the Secretary of the Navy through the mail from New Orleans.

Gen. Taylor's letters confirm the brilliant victory which was won by our arms at Buena Vista. The loss of the enemy by battle is less than was originally reported, though it is heavy indeed. Our own loss is considerably less, though it comprises some of the best and bravest men of our glorious army, made up, as it was, mostly of volunteers, co-operating with some of the finest regular troops in the world. But the loss of the Mexican army by starvation, desertion, and disorganization is still more striking. Gen. Taylor's three despatches are respectively dated February 24th, 25th, and March 1st. They state, in the general's usually lucid, modest, but expressive terms, the beginning, end, and some of the most important results of this remarkable battle. The most important of these results is the great loss of the enemy—their retreat, and partial, perhaps total dissolution—their fatal disorganization—their utter incapacity to harass at this time our own troops, who have returned to their original position at Agua Nueva. Gen. Taylor has sent a corps farther to harass him on the retreat, and to seize his supplies. The general further proposes to return to Monterey, and re-open the communication between that town and the Rio Grande. The points of the Mexican surrender are calculated of itself almost to effect this object in a few days. We cannot but again congratulate our country on this brilliant victory. We subjoin a list of the killed and wounded of our army. The death of those brave men affects every American heart with the keenest sympathy. It is the cyprus interwoven with the laurel.

If we turn our eyes farther to the south, bright achievements again await us, to heighten the glory of our country. We lay before our readers the only despatch from Commodore Conner, which relates to the disembarkation of our troops at Vera Cruz. Never was any landing more happily effected—with finer weather, and under more auspicious circumstances. Another and a later letter is received from the commodore; but it touches other topics. The Secretary has received another letter from a distinguished officer of the navy, under date of the 13th March; and he seems to speak of the surrender of the city and castle as certain in a few days. We are indebted to the New Orleans papers for the more interesting subsequent details about the investment of the place, and the few losses which we have sustained. We shall wait for further accounts from the army and squadron of Vera Cruz with the greatest impatience; and hope that many days will not elapse before we shall have the pleasure of congratulating our country upon the possession of one of the strongest military posts on the globe—the key of Mexico—which opens the gate of the approach to the capital.

Every patriot will rejoice at these cheering accounts. It accomplishes one of the great objects which every American patriot ought to have at heart—and it is calculated to effect another. We go for an honorable war, and an honorable peace. The one certainly leads to the other.

Since writing the above, we understand that Mr. Crittenden left General Taylor, with his army, at Agua Nueva on the 2d March, and brought the despatches along the usual route from Monterey to Camargo, under the escort of about 250 troops, commanded by Major Geddings, having along a train of some 130 empty wagons. As they approached Cerralvo, a small party was sent in to provide forage, &c., when the enemy under Urrea, were discovered, about 1,500 strong. Our troops were immediately placed on the defensive, and received the assault of the superior numbers with the resolution of men determined to cut their way through. They were repulsed with a loss of about 30 men, while we lost about half the number. A part of our baggage train was destroyed, (40 or 50 of the wagons) when the gallant Urrea made his retreat in the direction of the Tula pass. The teamsters were unwilling to proceed without a stronger escort, and Mr. Crittenden was detained five or six days at Cerralvo, when Colonel Curtis arrived from Camargo with a large body of troops. He was too late to overtake Urrea, who had probably commenced his retreat as soon as he heard of Santa Anna's discomfiture. Col. Curtis proceeded to Monterey, and the escort and train came on to Camargo, the enemy having fled as rapidly as possible, and this may be the last that we shall hear of them on this side of Tula and San Luis for some time.

We were amused with an anecdote about the ammunition wagon, which, by some accident, was cut off with the others near Cerralvo. It was destroyed, as most of the others were, by fire, and when the explosion unexpectedly took place, killing some, wounding others, and alarming all, it was regarded as a Yankee trick, and some wag said our wagons might henceforth stroll through the land, unharmed, as each would be regarded as some combustible machine, designed to consume the Mexicans.

From Gen. Taylor's Camp.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,

Camp on the field of battle, Buena Vista, Mexico, February 24, 1847.

Sir: I have the honor to report that, having become assured on the 20th inst., that the enemy had assembled in very heavy force at Encarnacion, thirty miles in front of Agua Nueva, with the evident design of attacking my position, I broke up my camp at the latter place on the 21st, and took up a strong line in front of Buena Vista, seven miles south of Saltillo. A cavalry force left